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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Ala' Aldeen, et al.
Serial No.: 09/743,674
Filed: January 10, 2001
Title: SCREENING OF NEISERIAL VACCINE CANDIDATES
AND VACCINES AGAINST PATHOGENIC NEISSERIA
Docket No.: 15-840
Art Unit: 1645
Examiner: S. Devi

Watts, Hoffmann, Fisher & Heinke Co., L.P.A.
1100 Superior Avenue, Suite 1750
Cleveland, OH 4414-2518

Mail Stop
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Written Restriction Requirements having a mailing date of
August 5, 2003, please enter the present amendment. In addition, the Applicant hereby
petitions for a two (2)-month extension of time in which to respond. Please charge
deposit account number 23-0630 the \$210 petition fee.

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medicament or vaccine for neisserial disease. Therefore, there is no distinct and independent invention beyond that of the four separate sequences. As shown above, MPEP §§ 803.04 and 1850 specifically allow up to ten (10) sequences to be prosecuted in one application. The present application contains only four (4) sequences. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claims 58-59, 61-62, 64-66 and 70-71 be examined in the present application.

In summary, Applicant's believe that the objected to claims 58-59, 61-62, and 64-66 as well as the claims from Groups V, VI and VII be examined along with the claims of the elected Group VII for the above stated reasons. Specifically, four sequence structures are claimed as well as their use as a medicament or vaccine for neisserial disease. Therefore, there is only one invention, the claimed sequences and their use as a medicament or vaccine for neisserial disease. Given that the MPEP allows up to ten sequences to be prosecuted in one application, it is respectfully requested that the objected to claims, as well as the claims of Groups V-VIII be examined together (collectively, claims 58-71).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/5/03



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Please charge any payment and credit any overpayment to deposit account number 23-0630.